



School of Global Studies and Collaboration Aoyama Gakuin University

Course Descriptions for Japan Studies Courses

2019 Spring ~ Fall

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Japan Studies Courses

GSC's Japan Studies Program offers unique opportunities for international students to be immersed in the multi-facets of Japan. The students acquire in-depth knowledge on culture, economy, business, policy, history and geography from accomplished scholars, professionals experienced in policy, renowned artists and entrepreneurs. The program is also designed for Japanese students to acquire the knowledge and skills to introduce their country to overseas in their future careers. Some of the coursework involves excursions or hands-on experiences. This program consists of 16 courses (32 credits) taught in English, starting from the fall semester of 2015.

(Courses are subject to change.)

Title	Description	Semester
New Frontiers in Geospatial Gaming	<p>Google / Ingress I - Beyond Google Earth.</p> <p>Google Earth has changed the educational method of geography. It is a very useful visualization tool, but only for the cyber world. Not for real world. Google has known this demerit on Google Earth, so they have launched the Ingress system on the mobile phone in 2012. The Ingress can make the chances for outdoor actives in the city. This course will explain the state of the Ingress in Japan for geospatial education and tourism.</p>	Fall
Advanced Resilient Communities against Disaster	<p>SAFECAST</p> <p>This course will describe the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Powerplant disaster, its causes, its consequences for people and the environment, and the innovative response of the citizens' based environmental monitoring group SAFECAST. It will include lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops (building a GPS/data logging Geiger counter, and logging and mapping radiation data). A reading list will be provided, which will include chapters from relevant books, web reports, and online videos.</p>	Fall
Drone Journalism	<p>Google / Ingress II - The world around you is not what it seems.</p> <p>Ingress is an augmented-reality large-scale multiplayeronline role-playing game dependent on GPS/GNSS, created by Niantic Labs, a startup within Google. Meanwhile, JAXA of Japan is to complete a new positioning satellite system, the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), in 2018. This will cover Japan, Southeast Asia and Oceania. QZSS games dependent on GPS/GNSS will soon spread through geospatial innovations. This course shares Google's strategy, technology, next-generation GPS/GNSS and state-of-the-art Geospatial gaming community in Japan.</p>	Spring

Title	Description	Semester
Surveying and Cartography in Japan	This course introduces the disaster response in Japan from the viewpoint of geography to students taking this course. It also enhances the development of students' skill in making oral presentation and self-regulated learning.	Spring
Modern Japanese History: From Samurai Age to Modernity	An introduction to Japanese history: From the Taisho era to the present This class will consist in a joint reading of the second half of Andrew Gordon's A Modern History of Japan (Third International Edition, 2013). Students are required to read one chapter (20-30 pages) of this text per week (with the exception of weeks in which tests are held). Weekly classes will combine lectures and discussion. The lectures will review the text, highlighting and enlarging on its main points. They will proceed on the understanding that students have completed the assigned readings already.	Fall
War Memory in Modern Japan	Topics in Japanese History II: Turns to the West in Meiji Japan. This class will survey the reception of Western thought in early to mid-Meiji Japan. There will be no textbook. Weekly readings (to be distributed in the previous class by the instructor) will consist of selections from multiple works on central themes. Weekly lectures and classroom discussions will serve to review these readings, highlighting and elaborating on their main points.	Fall
Introduction to Japanese Politics and Society	Topics in Japanese History III: An introduction to Japanese history until the end of the Meiji era The main part of this class will consist in a joint reading of the first half of Andrew Gordon's A Modern History of Japan (Third International Edition, 2013). Students are required to read one chapter (20-30 pages) of this text per week (with the exception of weeks in which tests are held). Weekly classes will combine lectures and discussion. The lectures will review the text, highlighting and enlarging on its main points. They will proceed on the understanding that students have completed the assigned readings already.	Spring
Issues in Modern Japanese Education	Topics in Japanese History IV: Encounters with the West in early modern Japan	Spring

Title	Description	Semester
Introduction to Japanese Culture	"Culture" can be defined as a "way of life," and every culture has its own uniqueness. In other words, various unique features characteristic to an ethnicity can be found throughout the world. Japanese culture is one of them. It has many unique features, and many people from different cultural backgrounds are attracted to it. This course will introduce Japanese culture by focusing on the close relationship between its people and the climate. Daily life in Japan has inevitably been defined and influenced by the four seasons. It is no exaggeration to say that the sense of oneness with nature characterizes the Japanese ethos, aesthetics, and behavior. Nature has also played a major part in Japanese literature; a haiku poem made up of seventeen syllables must contain one seasonal indicator in its 5-7-5-line pattern.	Fall
Lifestyle and Society in Japan	This course will introduce Japanese culture by focusing particularly on World Heritage Sites in Japan. It is designed to provide students with information on history, culture, art, religious beliefs, architecture and nature related to Japan's World Heritage Sites.	Fall
Traditional Art and Culture in Modern Japan	This course focuses on Japanese traditional culture. It is designed to provide students with information on Japanese traditional culture on flower arrangement, calligraphy, tea ceremony, Kyogen, Kabuki and so on. The course will be taught by artists, performers and experts who are known internationally. Students will have the unique opportunities to listen to their experiences, their thinking and the background as well as to watch performances first hand. Depending on the topic, you will also have hands on experiences in the class workshops.	Spring
Cool Japan: Contextualizing Contemporary Popular Culture	This course focuses on Japanese contemporary culture, so called Cool Japan. It is designed to provide students with information about anime, ICT, fashion, musicals, origami and so on. It will enable the students to acquire the knowledge and skills to present Japanese contemporary culture globally. Experts and artists will present features of 'cool Japan' and show how Japanese contemporary culture and arts can promote cultural understanding. During this course, Students will also take part in workshops to gain experience of origami making etc. This will allow students to appreciate the Japanese heart and mind as reflected in contemporary culture.	Spring

Title	Description	Semester
Travel and Tourism in Contemporary Japan	<p>Japanese economy seems to be modernized just during Meiji restoration which is after Edo period as a feudalism of around 250 years.</p> <p>During the Meiji period (1968~), Japan had introduced western technology and culture drastically so as to increase the power of Japan against the military pressure by western developed countries, such as the UK, France, Germany and the United States.</p> <p>At the end of Meiji period, Japan could become a semi-developed country in east-asian.</p> <p>Why did it become possible by only Japan or How did it become modernized ?</p> <p>After the World War II, Japan had been increasing the economic power drastically again.</p> <p>Recently Japan has been on the way to a small population and aged society. How does the Japan overcome these situation ?</p>	Fall
Financial Systems and Economic Development in Postwar Japan	<p>Economic Development in Japan's Post-WWII Era and Development Finance:</p> <p>In this course, the process of achievement in reconstruction and development of post-war Japan's economy will be examined. Particular focus will be the several economic development stages in post-WWII era and the special role of development finance, especially Japan Development Bank that is considered to have played a substantial role in Japan's post-war economy for various aspects: implementing World Bank loans for reconstruction, financing leading industries in 1960's, promoting environmental sustainability more recently.</p>	Fall
Economic and Industrial Development Policy in Postwar Japan	<p>Economy and Policy-making of Japan (Enhancing competitiveness):</p> <p>In this course features of Japan's post-WWII economic development will be examined. Particular attention will be paid at the concept of industrial policy and institutional aspects of Japan's economy.</p>	Spring
Japanese Economic Cooperation with Developing Countries	<p>"Why are poor countries poor, while rich countries are rich?" "What can and should be done to make poor countries rich?" these are the questions over which human species have agonized, and we are still unable to find a decisive answer. Japan has been engaging in an endeavor to tackle these agendas for over sixty years since 1954, based on distinctive aid philosophy and by employing unique instruments.</p> <p>This course would examine Japan's unique approach to the development assistance in comparison to that of other bilateral and multilateral donors. In each session we would ask: What are the distinctive Japanese aid philosophy and aid instruments? How were they formulated and developed? Was Japan's unique approach effective in facilitating development? In addition, we would examine how Japan's aid changed over time, in response to the transformation of international environment as well as to Japan's own political and economic situations, and its future direction.</p>	Spring